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Hilsmans Bone Up on Asia, Area of Father's New Job

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When father gets an exciting new job, most families would break out the champagne.

For the Roger Hilsman family in Chevy Chase, Md., it's time to break out the books.

That's the first action she'll take, said the wife of the new Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, whose appointment was announced last week by President Kennedy.

"We'll bone up on Asia," she said of herself and their four children, "and we'll start with a good map of Asia. My husband spent time out there and lived in the Philippines, but I have never known many Asians," added the pretty brunette.

Breaking out books is an old habit for the Hilsmans. When a new puppy joined their family some years ago, they were off to the library for a book on puppy-pampering. Her first pregnancy prompted another trip to the library, and when they once bought a house by the water, they scurried after how-to books on sailing.

As for the whole family's propping up books, that's not quite accurate, since one member is much too busy propping up her bottle of milk to be perusing Asia.

Six-week-old Sarah will get her Far East facts a bit later. Six-year-old Ashby, 12-year-old Amy and 14-year-old Hoyt probably will find at the year's end that they've become at least junior experts on Far Eastern affairs. The three are students at Rosemary Elementary, Leland Junior High and Sidwell Friends Schools, respectively.

Concern for Togetherness

As mercurial as a ray of sun and as precious, the balance between time spent on his consuming job and that spent on his family worries the new assistant cabinet officer's wife.

Worth working for, necessary to find and quite within the family's ability, this balance often means, however, that the quality of the time spent together is improved, she has found.



Mrs. Roger Hilsman, wife of the newly appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, describes changes which her husband's job will bring to family life.—Star Staff Photo.

"The children are keenly interested in their father's work, and he tends to be more relaxed with them than in former days when he was working at home as a writer," she continued in an interview held in her home.

This period was during early '61, and it meant rising at 5:30 a.m., keeping the house quiet for Daddy, and next to no social life. This ended with Mr. Hilsman's appointment as director of intelligence and research for the State Department, the post he is now vacating.

Baltimore-born, the former Eleanor Hoyt attended schools there and a year at Barnard College. It was during World War II that she and her close friend, Dorothy Breeskin, daughter of Mrs. Adelyn Breeskin, director of the Washington Gallery of Modern Art, trained to be-

Their three-month course at Johns Hopkins University landed them jobs as draftsmen at an aircraft plant. It was then when she was 14 and her family moved to Sparrows Point near Baltimore that she met her future husband, whose father was based at an Army camp nearby.

The war years found Mr. Hilsman serving with Merrill's Marauders in the Burma theater, and later commanding a guerrilla unit behind the Japanese lines. At the war's end, he para-

chuted into a prisoner of war camp in China to liberate his father, an Army colonel who had commanded a Philippine post before his capture by the Japanese.

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On Magazine, Newspaper

Before their marriage after the war, Mrs. Hilsman studied for a year at the University of Chicago and worked for a news magazine and the old Times-Herald.

After marriage, the couple lived in Washington where Mr. Hilsman served with the OSS. They moved on to Yale University for three years, still with the Army, in advance training in international relations. Two years in England with NATO followed and finally a year in Germany to assist in setting up SHAPE headquarters.

In England, Mr. Hilsman wrote the dissertation on intelligence which earned him his Ph.D. via the mails. He resigned from the Army and returned to the United States to teach at Princeton for three years. Following this he spent five years as deputy director of the Legislative Reference Service for the Library of Congress.

Asked whether she herself had any personal goals beyond the ties of family and home, the new official's wife replied that she was "be-childrened" at the moment, but, like so many women with cut-off college or work careers, she hoped some day to finish college.